



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

JUL 10 2009

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF: E-19J

Jeanne Higgins, Forest Supervisor
Medford-Park Falls Ranger District
Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest
850 North 8th Street
Medford, Wisconsin 54451

Re: Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Camp Four Vegetation Project,
Medford-Park Falls Ranger District, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest,
Price County, Wisconsin - CEQ No. 20090193

Dear Ms. Higgins:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reviewed the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) for the above-mentioned project in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA Implementing Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA assigned a rating of "Lack of Objections to the Draft EIS in our December 22, 2008 letter. Based on our review of the Final EIS and ROD, we understand that several minor changes have been incorporated into the Final EIS, including additional analysis to respond to comments received. The reduction of open field planting in Alternative 3 responds to public concern related to potential fire risks to adjacent private property, given the increased fuel load complexity which would have resulted from a forested environment associated with tree planting.

We retain our lack of objections to the proposed project. Alternative 3 meets the current Forest Plan's goals and objectives by improving or restoring desired vegetative conditions on the treated acreage to ensure adequate habitat diversity in the future. By implementing Forest Plan standards and guidelines as well as project design features, the proposed project should not result in significant impacts.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Kathy Kowal of my staff at (312) 353-5206.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth A. Westlake".

Kenneth A. Westlake
Supervisor, NEPA Implementation
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

cc: Jim McDonald, Regional Environmental Coordinator